



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9  
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SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105  
ATTN: Rose Marie Caraway

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For your convenience, a Spanish-translated version of this newsletter is available and has been sent to accompany the English version.

Para su conveniencia, una versión traducida en español de este boletín está disponible y se ha enviado para acompañar la versión en inglés.

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# Pemaco Superfund Site

## PROPOSED PLAN

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • SAN FRANCISCO, CA • MARCH 2004

### introduction

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 9, is seeking public comments on this **Proposed Plan**\* to address soil and groundwater **contamination** at the Pemaco Superfund Site in Maywood, California. The Proposed Plan identifies EPA's preferred cleanup remedy and summarizes the cleanup alternatives that were considered by EPA. This proposed plan summarizes information that can be found in the **Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study** (RI/FS) Reports and other documents contained in the Administrative Record File for this Site. The **Administrative Record File** is available for public review at the Information Repositories listed on page 17. EPA's primary objective is to protect public health and the environment from environmental **contaminants** detected at the Pemaco Site.

EPA has prepared the Proposed Plan to: (1) inform the community about the history and environmental findings at the Site; (2) describe the cleanup options (alternatives) and EPA's preferred alternatives; (3) solicit public comments on EPA's preferred alternatives; and (4) describe how the public can become involved.

EPA will select the final cleanup method (the remedy) for the Site after considering the community's input. EPA encourages you to read this Proposed Plan and other related environmental studies for the Site. Public input on all alternatives, and on the information that supports the alternatives, is an important part of the remedy selection process. Your input can influence EPA's final decision.

As the lead agency for the Site, EPA has worked with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), on environmental issues at the Site. After considering public comments, EPA, in consultation with DTSC, will make a final selection of the remedies to be implemented at the Site. EPA will then present the remedies and implementation plans in a document called the **Record of Decision** (ROD). The ROD will include a Responsiveness Summary, which will present all public comments received on the Proposed Plan along with EPA's responses to those comments.

\*All words in bold are defined in the Glossary on pages 17-18.

*EPA is issuing this Proposed Plan pursuant to the requirements of the **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act** (CERCLA) of 1980 and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), to facilitate community involvement in the selection of remedies for the Pemaco Superfund Site.*

### public comment period

April 4, 2004 through May 3, 2004

### community meeting

Saturday, April 17, 2004  
11:00 am  
Maywood Activity Center  
4801 E 58th Street

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## Invitation to Comment on the Proposed Cleanup of the Pemaco Superfund Site, Maywood, CA

You have a chance to comment on the Proposed Plan for cleaning up the Pemaco Superfund Site at a public meeting on April 17, 2004. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 9, wants to hear your views about the proposed plan for this cleanup. We have carefully studied the Site and now believe that the following actions are the best way to protect your health and the environment.

- Place a 1-ft layer of clean soil as a cover over the entire Site, and establish vegetative growth to stabilize the soil in place. Long-term monitoring and maintenance of the soil cover and vegetative growth is essential to prevent erosion and exposure of the underlying contaminants. This will cost \$773,000 and take 1 – 2 months to complete.
- Extract contaminated groundwater and soil vapor to a depth of 35 feet below the surface using high vacuum pumps. Transport the extracted groundwater and soil vapor to separate aboveground treatment systems where the contaminants are removed prior to discharge. Treat groundwater with an ultraviolet oxidation system. Treat soil vapor with a flameless thermal oxidation (FTO) system for first year of operation; replace FTO with a granular activated carbon (GAC) system for remainder of project. Discharge the clean water to the

storm water drain/channel and the treated soil vapor to air. This will cost \$3.7 million and will take approximately 10 years to complete.

- Heat soil and groundwater in the most highly contaminated source area between 35 and 100 ft bgs through a process called electrical resistance heating. Collect volatilized contaminants at the surface via vapor extraction for treatment. Pump remaining contaminated groundwater and extract soil vapors outside of the source area between 35 and 100 ft bgs to the surface for treatment. Treat groundwater with an ultraviolet oxidation system. Treat soil vapor with an FTO system for first year of operation; replace FTO with a GAC system for remainder of project. Discharge the clean water to the storm drain/channel and the treated soil vapor to air. This will cost \$8.9 million and will take approximately 10 years to complete - but 90% of project complete in 1 year with subsequent pumping for 4 years and monitoring for a total of 10 years.

You may make comments at the public meeting. You also have until May 3, 2004, to supply written comments on the Proposed Plan, or other material in the Administrative Record File. At the end of the comment period, EPA will review the suggestions and make a final decision about the Site cleanup. Your input on the Proposed Plan is an important part of the decision-making process and can influence EPA's final decision.

### submit written comments

#### Public Comment Period:

EPA will accept written comments on the Proposed Plan during the public comment period, April 4 – May 3, 2004.

You may submit your comments to:

Ms. Rose Marie Caraway  
U.S. EPA Region 9  
75 Hawthorne St. (SFD - 7 -2)  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

### attend the public meeting

#### Public Meeting:

You are invited to a meeting sponsored by EPA to hear about the Proposed Plan for cleaning up the Pemaco Superfund site. At the meeting you will be able to state your views about the cleanup.

The meeting will be held:

11 am, Saturday, April 17, 2004  
Maywood Activity Center  
4801 E. 58th Street  
Maywood, CA

### location of administrative record

Maywood Caesar Chavez Public Library  
4323 E. Slauson Avenue  
Maywood, CA 90270 • (323) 771-8600  
Hours: Mon – Tues, 12 pm – 8 pm  
Wed – Thurs, 11 am – 6 pm  
Fri – Sat, 11 am – 5 pm  
Sunday, CLOSED

U.S. EPA Records Center Region 9  
95 Hawthorne Street, Suite 403 S  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 536-2000  
Hours: Mon – Fri, 8 am to 5 pm

This newsletter is printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper



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site risks

Between the 1940s and 1991, Pemaco, Inc. operated a chemical blending facility at 5050 E. Slauson Avenue in Maywood, California. A wide variety of chemicals were used and stored in drums, aboveground storage tanks (ASTs), and underground storage tanks (USTs). Environmental assessments performed at the Pemaco facility have identified soil and groundwater contamination that originated from the blending and storage of chemicals. EPA has spent the last two years studying the property to determine what risks it poses to the health and welfare of people who live near or will use the Site upon its redevelopment into the Maywood Riverfront Park. We found that there is some risk to people who come into contact with the site-contaminated soil or groundwater. While the chance of becoming sick as a result of exposure to the contaminants is small, it is serious enough to require that actions be taken to reduce the levels of chemicals present in the soil and groundwater to safe levels. To provide more protection while the cleanup is being done, we have already put a fence around the Site and sampled nearby residential homes for indoor air contamination.

cleanup goals

- Reduce the risk posed by direct contact with contaminated soils and soil vapor migrating to the surface.
- Restore groundwater to standards established under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

your comments

We looked at a number of ways to meet the cleanup goals, which are described more completely in the Proposed Plan and Administrative Record File. EPA believes that the Preferred Alternatives identified on the other side of this page (and illustrated below) will protect your health and the environment and can be done without major nuisance to your community. However, before making a final decision, we want to hear what you think. We encourage you to find out more about the cleanup plan and make your views and concerns known on all the options that were considered. The cleanup plan that is finally chosen will be described in a Record of Decision. That document will include a summary of the comments received along with how those comments effected the decision that was reached.

for more information...

You can see a copy of the Proposed Plan, which describes the cleanup alternatives we studied, and also get more information about the site by visiting the Administrative Record File which can be found at:

Maywood Caesar Chavez Library  
4323 E. Slauson Avenue  
Maywood, CA 90270  
Telephone: (323) 771-8600

Finally, you can ask for a copy of the Proposed Plan to be sent to you by calling 1-800-231-3075.

site background

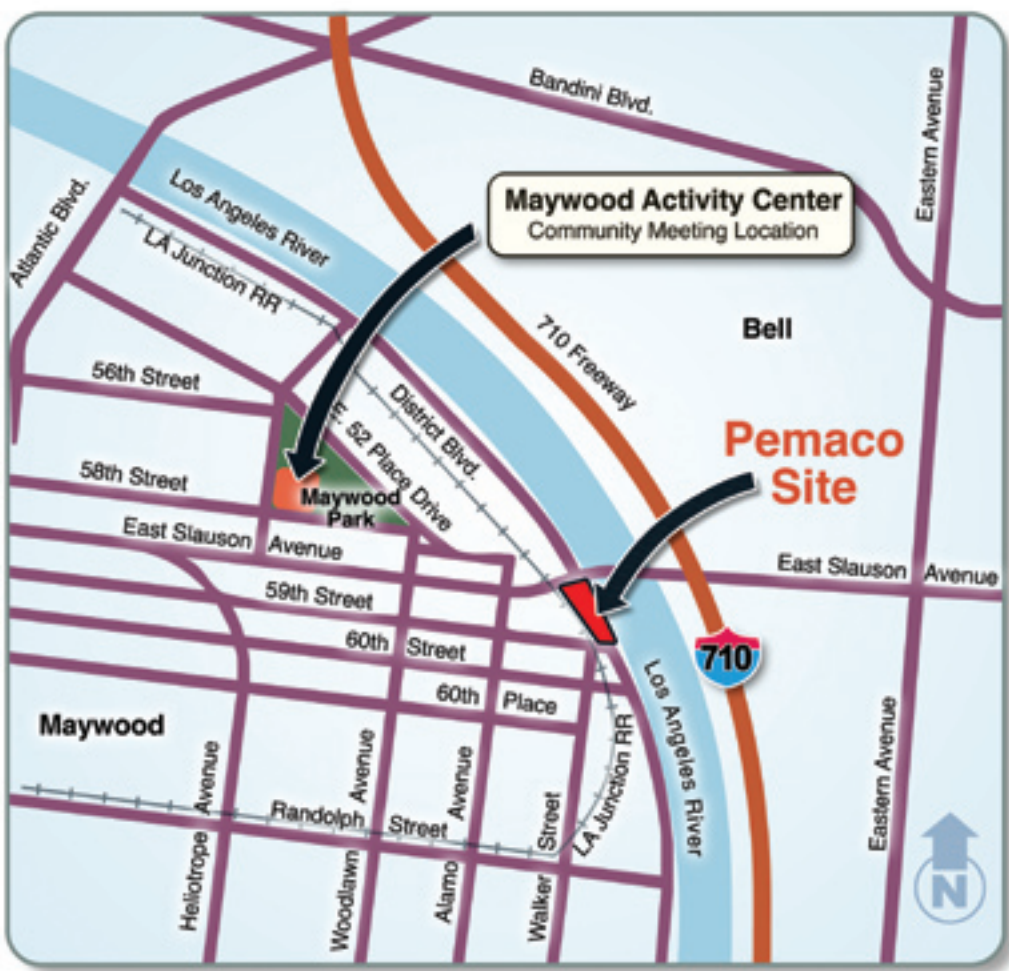
The Pemaco Superfund Site is located at 5050 E. Slauson Avenue in Maywood, California (see Figure 1). It is a 1.4-acre site in a mixed industrial and residential community. The Pemaco Site was used by Pemaco, Inc., which formally operated as a custom chemical blending facility from the 1940s until 1991. No other use of the property is documented since 1991. The City of Maywood, in conjunction with the Trust for Public Land, is planning to use the Pemaco property along with several adjacent properties to build the Maywood Riverfront Park.

During its operation, the Pemaco facility used a wide variety of chemicals including chlorinated and aromatic solvents, flammable liquids, oils, and specialty chemicals. These chemicals were stored in drums, aboveground storage tanks (ASTs), and underground storage tanks (USTs).

The first environmental assessment of the property was completed in 1990 by the Pemaco facility owner. The owner abandoned the Site some time after 1991 and environmental activities at the Site shifted to Los Angeles County and EPA. Environmental assessments performed at the Pemaco facility between 1990 and 1999 identified soil and **groundwater** contamination that occurred due to spillage from the tanks and drums.

Between 1991 and 1994, approximately four hundred 55-gallon drums and three ASTs were removed from the Site by order of the Los Angeles District Attorney's office. A substantial fire in 1993 destroyed much of the main warehouse building. At the request of Los Angeles County, regulatory involvement by EPA's Region 9 Emergency Response team included: removal of the remaining stored chemicals, drums, ASTs, and USTs, fence installation around the Site, building demolition, environmental sampling, and the design, installation, and operation of a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system. The SVE was installed as an interim measure in 1998 and operated until 1999, when it was shut down due to community concerns with emissions from the thermal oxidation unit used to treat the extracted vapors.

The EPA added the Site to the **National Priorities List (NPL)** in 1999 to continue remediation (cleanup) efforts at the Site.



▲ Figure 1. Location Map of Pemaco Superfund Site

the superfund process

<b>Site Discovery</b> Evidence of potential contamination is reported in 1992.	<b>NPL ranking/ listing</b> Site placed on EPA's National Priorities List in January 1999, making it eligible for cleanup action under Superfund.	<b>Remedial Investigation (RI)</b> EPA investigates the nature and extent of contamination. The RI report was completed in November 2003.	<b>Feasibility Study (FS)</b> EPA identifies and analyzes alternatives for addressing site contamination. The FS report was completed in February 2004.
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enforcement activities occur th  
community involvement activities

▲ Figure 2. The Superfund Process for the Pemaco Superfund Site

maywood riverfront park



▲ Figure 11. Maywood Riverfron Park – Conceptual Design